

Tijerina Witness Describes Spanish-American Poverty

By Peter Nabokov
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ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., Dec. 5 — The historical motivation for the 1967 Tierra Amarilla raid was presented today by land-grant advocate Reies Lopez Tijerina.

Leader of the "Alianza," a northern New Mexico grassroots group that demands return of millions of Southwestern acres under old Spanish land grants, Tijerina has been conducting his own defense since the trial began three weeks ago.

He is charged with kidnapping, false imprisonment and assault on a jail in connection with a two-hour armed attack on the Rio Arriba County Courthouse on June 5, 1967.

Research anthropologist Dr. Frances Swadesh, a specialist in social change in New Mexico's northern counties, testified today that the common experience of many Southwestern Spanish-Americans was "cultural discontinuity . . . breakdown in community . . . loss of family ties . . . and a sense of relative deprivation."

Earlier, a surprise resting of the State's case elicited motions for trial dismissal from Tijerina on the grounds that it had failed to justify its indict-

ments, District Court Judge Paul Larrazolo took these under advisement.

Before the State rested, on Albuquerque realtor, E. R. Gleasner, said that through vice resemblance he was certain it was Tijerina who had clubbed him with a rifle butt during the height of the raid's confusion. Another witness, United Press International reporter Larry Calloway testified, "I saw you, Reies Tijerina, to one side of the phone booth, with a pistol in your right hand."

But neither Calloway nor Gleasner connected Tijerina with the Rio Arriba deputy

sheriff he is accused of kidnapping and falsely imprisoning.

Throughout his arguments, Tijerina has been attempting to call sympathetic witnesses who can provide grounds for his contention that the raid was a justified but abortive attempt to perform a "citizen's arrest" on a local district attorney.